

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

In this Replacement Fig. 1, the reference letter "N" is replaced by the reference numeral "100" and the written description is similarly amended, where necessary.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s) and Annotated Sheet(s) Showing Change(s)

II. REMARKS

A. Introduction

In this Office Action claims 1-21 are noted as pending and are objected to and/or rejected based on prior art.

In summary of this Response, claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17 and 19 are canceled, claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 20-21 are amended, and remarks are provided.

B. Specification Objections

The objected to title has been amended consistent with the Examiner's suggestion so this objection has been overcome.

The abstract has been amended consistent with PTO guidelines so this objection has been overcome.

C. Drawing Objections

The Action suggests that only reference numerals can be used in drawings, and yet 37 CFR Section 1.84(p)(1)-(3) allows for the use of letters in the drawings. Nevertheless, Fig. 1 and the related written description have been amended herein by deleting "N" and replacing same with the reference numeral "100". It is believed this fully addresses the rejection.

D. Rejection of Claims 1-21 Under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, Second Paragraph

Various of the claims have been rejected on the ground that certain terms are unclear or lack antecedent basis. The currently pending of these rejected claims have been amended herein to address these rejections.

E. Rejection of Claims 1-21 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

These claims are rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,578,074 of Bahlmann.

As noted above, rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13, 16, 17 and 19 are canceled. Nevertheless, for the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention, as recited by amended claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 20-21, were neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by this reference.

The subject matter of claim 7 has been added to each of independent claims 3, 12 and 18. Further, these independent claims now recite that a unit automatically determines whether or not the period of time in the lease conditions stored in the lease condition storage unit is satisfied at predetermined intervals. That is, the determination is made without the need for an external query. Support for this limitation is found at, e.g., page 21, lines 15-19: "The DHCP server 10 executes organization of the lease status table 12 according to procedures shown in FIG. 5, independently of the processings (refer to FIGS. 3 and 4) at determined cycles (set as interval time)...", and the related Fig. 5. Further, according to the invention recited by these claims, a unit deletes from the lease condition storage unit those lease conditions for which it is determined that the period of time is not satisfied. Overall, these steps facilitate distribution of a unique identifier to a user of the system, and improve security.

According to Bahlmann, when the client fails to renew the lease in a timely manner, the lease merely expires, and the lease is changed to an "expired state", but the lease terms remain associated with the client. Should the client wish to renew later, the server is prompted to offer the same terms as the expired lease. When accepted, the lease returns to the "active state" and the client becomes bound to the lease again. See, e.g., Col. 6, lines 4-11. However, in this process, Bahlmann does not disclose or teach an apparatus for assigning a unique identifier that automatically determines, at predetermined intervals, whether or not the period of lease time is satisfied and deletes from the lease conditions storage unit those conditions for which it is determined that the period of time is not satisfied.

F. Information Disclosure Statement

Filed herewith is an IDS which makes of record the remaining two references discussed on page 4 of the Specification.

III. CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 12, 14, 15, 18 and 20-21 are now in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional fees associated with this Response, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this Response, the undersigned would appreciate a telephone conference with the Examiner to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: 4/25/08
1201 New York Ave., N.W., 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

By: 

William F. Herbert
Registration No. 31,024



ANNOTATED DRAWING

FIG. 1

